

AMENDMENT

15. (new) Insulation element according  
to claim 14, wherein the third film layer (1') is made of a  
flame-retardant material.

16. (new) Insulation element according  
to claim 9, wherein the flame-retardant material is selected from  
the group consisting of polyimide, PPS, PET, PVF and PVDF.

Please add the following claims:

17. (new) Insulation element according  
to claim 15, wherein the flame-retardant material is selected  
from the group consisting of polyimide, PPS, PET, PVF and PVDF.

18. (new) Insulation element according  
to claim 12, wherein the second film (3) and the film layer (1)  
constituting an outer film layer are laminated to each other.

R E M A R K S

This Amendment accompanying this application is being made to  
cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject  
matter therein and to substitute new claims 9-18 therefor, in  
order to avoid multiple-dependent claim fees and to place this  
application in proper form and condition for examination as of

the filing of this national stage application. No multiple-dependent claim fees apply.

Therefore no multiple-dependent claim fees should be charged in this application.

The specification has also been amended for formal improvement to comply with USA practice.

An Abstract is presented on a separate page herewith.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with markings to show changes made"

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee as of the national stage filing date, and to provide an action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted

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by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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**INSULATING ELEMENT**  
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100 20 048.6 filed April 22, 2000  
100 28 018.8 filed June 6, 2000  
100 64 607.7 filed December 22, 2000

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Page 1, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 37 with  
the following rewritten paragraph:

This object is achieved initially and substantially in the case  
of the introductory-mentioned subject matter [of Claim 1, it  
being provided that] wherein the film layer consists of a  
flame-retardant material, that the film layer also has through-  
openings and that the through-openings are open to vapour  
diffusion. The invention consequently takes the approach of  
forming the film layer or, as also emerges from the text below,  
preferably an outer film layer, only with a predominantly flame-  
retardant effect, but to leave through-openings which, although  
closed by the film, are open to vapour diffusion. The film layer  
itself can consequently be not permeable to vapour diffusion, or  
possibly only much less permeable to vapour diffusion. A first,  
more specific embodiment of this teaching proposes that the  
through-openings comprise cut-outs formed in the film layer and  
that these cut-outs are respectively closed by a second film of  
material which is open to vapour diffusion, disposed in a window-  
like manner. Consequently, punched openings, hole-like punched

openings, can be made in the film layer and then be covered with individual, patch-like portions of a second film. For example, the second film may be adhesively bonded to the outer film layer to the extent that the cut-outs are closed by it. A very wide range of geometries can be used for the cut-outs, and this also applies to the embodiments still to be described below. For example, circular, rectangular, star-shaped, grid-like, and so on. In a further specific embodiment, the invention also proposes that the second film is disposed under the outer film layer and in such a way that it covers the latter even in the regions without through-openings. Consequently, film layers simply lying one on top of the other may be provided, the outer film layer being formed by the flame-retardant material and the inner film layer being formed by the material open to vapour diffusion, with the outer film layer having through-openings and the film layer which is open to vapour diffusion having no openings.

Page 3, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

With regard to the flame-retardant material, polyimide is particularly suitable and is already available on the market as polyimide films. However, a polyphenylene sulphide (PPS) film may also be used, for example. Also, a polyester (PET) film, a polyvinyl-fluoride [(PVDF)] (PVF) or polyvinyl-difluoride (PVDF) film.